

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 519**

Introduced by Morfeld, 46.

Read first time January 19, 2021

Committee: Judiciary

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to public safety; to amend sections 25-21,271,  
2 28-101, 28-416, 28-441, and 53-180.05, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
3 Supplement, 2020; to change provisions relating to notice for  
4 petitions to change a person's name; to provide immunity for certain  
5 alcohol and controlled substances violations by witnesses and  
6 victims of sexual assaults and persons cooperating with law  
7 enforcement; to define terms; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal  
8 the original sections.  
9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 25-21,271, Revised Statutes Cumulative  
2 Supplement, 2020, is amended to read:

3 25-21,271 (1) Any person desiring to change his or her name shall  
4 file a petition in the district court of the county in which such person  
5 may be a resident, setting forth (a) that the petitioner has been a bona  
6 fide citizen of such county for at least one year prior to the filing of  
7 the petition, (b) the address of the petitioner, (c) the date of birth of  
8 the petitioner, (d) the cause for which the change of petitioner's name  
9 is sought, and (e) the name asked for.

10 (2)(a) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(b) of this section,  
11 notice ~~(2) Notice~~ of the filing of the petition shall be published in a  
12 newspaper in the county, and if no newspaper is printed in the county,  
13 then in a newspaper of general circulation therein. The notice shall be  
14 published (i) ~~(a)~~ once a week for four consecutive weeks if the  
15 petitioner is nineteen years of age or older at the time the action is  
16 filed and (ii) ~~(b)~~ once a week for two consecutive weeks if the  
17 petitioner is under nineteen years of age at the time the action is  
18 filed.

19 (b) The court may waive the notice requirement of subdivision (2)(a)  
20 of this section for good cause shown by the petitioner, including, but  
21 not limited to, that such notice could endanger the petitioner.

22 (3) In an action involving a petitioner under nineteen years of age  
23 who has a noncustodial parent, notice of the filing of the petition shall  
24 be sent by certified mail within five days after publication to the  
25 noncustodial parent at the address provided to the clerk of the district  
26 court pursuant to subsection (1) of section 42-364.13 for the  
27 noncustodial parent if he or she has provided an address. The clerk of  
28 the district court shall provide the petitioner with the address upon  
29 request.

30 (4) ~~(3)~~ It shall be the duty of the district court, upon being duly  
31 satisfied by proof in open court of the truth of the allegations set

1 forth in the petition, that there exists proper and reasonable cause for  
2 changing the name of the petitioner, and that notice of the filing of the  
3 petition has been given as required by this section, to order and direct  
4 a change of name of such petitioner and that an order for the purpose be  
5 entered by the court.

6 (5) (4) The clerk of the district court shall deliver a copy of any  
7 name-change order issued by the court pursuant to this section to the  
8 Department of Health and Human Services for use pursuant to sections  
9 28-376 and 28-718 and to the sex offender registration and community  
10 notification division of the Nebraska State Patrol for use pursuant to  
11 section 29-4004.

12 Sec. 2. Section 28-101, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
13 2020, is amended to read:

14 28-101 Sections 28-101 to 28-1357 and 28-1601 to 28-1603 and section  
15 3 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Nebraska Criminal  
16 Code.

17 Sec. 3. (1) A person shall not be arrested or prosecuted for an  
18 eligible alcohol or drug offense if such person witnessed or was the  
19 victim of a sexual assault and such person:

20 (a) Either:

21 (i) In good faith, reported such sexual assault to law enforcement;

22 or

23 (ii) Requested emergency medical assistance for the victim of the  
24 sexual assault; and

25 (b) Evidence supporting the arrest or prosecution of the eligible  
26 alcohol or drug offense was obtained or discovered as a result of such  
27 person reporting such crime of violence to law enforcement or requesting  
28 emergency medical assistance.

29 (2) A person shall not be arrested or prosecuted for an eligible  
30 alcohol or drug offense if:

31 (a) Evidence supporting the arrest or prosecution of the person for

1 the offense was obtained or discovered as a result of the investigation  
2 or prosecution of a sexual assault; and

3 (b) Such person cooperates with law enforcement in the investigation  
4 or prosecution of the sexual assault.

5 (3) For purposes of this section:

6 (a) Eligible alcohol or drug offense means:

7 (i) A violation of subsection (3) or (13) of section 28-416 or of  
8 section 28-441;

9 (ii) A violation of section 53-180.02 committed by a person older  
10 than eighteen years of age and under the age of twenty-one years, as  
11 described in subdivision (4)(a) of section 53-180.05;

12 (iii) A violation of a city or village ordinance similar to  
13 subdivision (3)(a)(i) or (ii) of this section; or

14 (iv) Attempt, conspiracy, solicitation, being an accessory to,  
15 aiding and abetting, aiding the consummation of, or compounding a felony  
16 with any of the offenses in subdivision (3)(a)(i), (ii), or (iii) of this  
17 section as the underlying offense; and

18 (b) Sexual assault means:

19 (i) A violation of section 28-316.01, 28-319, 28-319.01, 28-320,  
20 28-320.01, 28-320.02, 28-322.01, 28-322.02, 28-322.03, 28-322.04,  
21 28-322.05, 28-703, or 28-1463.03, sex trafficking or sex trafficking of a  
22 minor under section 28-831, or subdivision (1)(c) or (g) of section  
23 28-386 or subdivision (1)(d), (e), or (f) of section 28-707; or

24 (ii) Attempt, conspiracy, solicitation, being an accessory to,  
25 aiding and abetting, aiding the consummation of, or compounding a felony  
26 with any of the offenses listed in subdivision (3)(b)(i) of this section  
27 as the underlying offense.

28 Sec. 4. Section 28-416, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
29 2020, is amended to read:

30 28-416 (1) Except as authorized by the Uniform Controlled Substances  
31 Act, it shall be unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally: (a)

1 To manufacture, distribute, deliver, dispense, or possess with intent to  
2 manufacture, distribute, deliver, or dispense a controlled substance; or  
3 (b) to create, distribute, or possess with intent to distribute a  
4 counterfeit controlled substance.

5 (2) Except as provided in subsections (4), (5), (7), (8), (9), and  
6 (10) of this section, any person who violates subsection (1) of this  
7 section with respect to: (a) A controlled substance classified in  
8 Schedule I, II, or III of section 28-405 which is an exceptionally  
9 hazardous drug shall be guilty of a Class II felony; (b) any other  
10 controlled substance classified in Schedule I, II, or III of section  
11 28-405 shall be guilty of a Class IIA felony; or (c) a controlled  
12 substance classified in Schedule IV or V of section 28-405 shall be  
13 guilty of a Class IIIA felony.

14 (3) A person knowingly or intentionally possessing a controlled  
15 substance, except marijuana or any substance containing a quantifiable  
16 amount of the substances, chemicals, or compounds described, defined, or  
17 delineated in subdivision (c)(25) of Schedule I of section 28-405, unless  
18 such substance was obtained directly or pursuant to a medical order  
19 issued by a practitioner authorized to prescribe while acting in the  
20 course of his or her professional practice, or except as otherwise  
21 authorized by the act, shall be guilty of a Class IV felony. A person  
22 shall not be in violation of this subsection if section 28-472 or section  
23 3 of this act applies.

24 (4)(a) Except as authorized by the Uniform Controlled Substances  
25 Act, any person eighteen years of age or older who knowingly or  
26 intentionally manufactures, distributes, delivers, dispenses, or  
27 possesses with intent to manufacture, distribute, deliver, or dispense a  
28 controlled substance or a counterfeit controlled substance (i) to a  
29 person under the age of eighteen years, (ii) in, on, or within one  
30 thousand feet of the real property comprising a public or private  
31 elementary, vocational, or secondary school, a community college, a

1 public or private college, junior college, or university, or a  
2 playground, or (iii) within one hundred feet of a public or private youth  
3 center, public swimming pool, or video arcade facility shall be punished  
4 by the next higher penalty classification than the penalty prescribed in  
5 subsection (2), (7), (8), (9), or (10) of this section, depending upon  
6 the controlled substance involved, for the first violation and for a  
7 second or subsequent violation shall be punished by the next higher  
8 penalty classification than that prescribed for a first violation of this  
9 subsection, but in no event shall such person be punished by a penalty  
10 greater than a Class IB felony.

11 (b) For purposes of this subsection:

12 (i) Playground means any outdoor facility, including any parking lot  
13 appurtenant to the facility, intended for recreation, open to the public,  
14 and with any portion containing three or more apparatus intended for the  
15 recreation of children, including sliding boards, swingsets, and  
16 teeterboards;

17 (ii) Video arcade facility means any facility legally accessible to  
18 persons under eighteen years of age, intended primarily for the use of  
19 pinball and video machines for amusement, and containing a minimum of ten  
20 pinball or video machines; and

21 (iii) Youth center means any recreational facility or gymnasium,  
22 including any parking lot appurtenant to the facility or gymnasium,  
23 intended primarily for use by persons under eighteen years of age which  
24 regularly provides athletic, civic, or cultural activities.

25 (5)(a) Except as authorized by the Uniform Controlled Substances  
26 Act, it shall be unlawful for any person eighteen years of age or older  
27 to knowingly and intentionally employ, hire, use, cause, persuade, coax,  
28 induce, entice, seduce, or coerce any person under the age of eighteen  
29 years to manufacture, transport, distribute, carry, deliver, dispense,  
30 prepare for delivery, offer for delivery, or possess with intent to do  
31 the same a controlled substance or a counterfeit controlled substance.

1 (b) Except as authorized by the Uniform Controlled Substances Act,  
2 it shall be unlawful for any person eighteen years of age or older to  
3 knowingly and intentionally employ, hire, use, cause, persuade, coax,  
4 induce, entice, seduce, or coerce any person under the age of eighteen  
5 years to aid and abet any person in the manufacture, transportation,  
6 distribution, carrying, delivery, dispensing, preparation for delivery,  
7 offering for delivery, or possession with intent to do the same of a  
8 controlled substance or a counterfeit controlled substance.

9 (c) Any person who violates subdivision (a) or (b) of this  
10 subsection shall be punished by the next higher penalty classification  
11 than the penalty prescribed in subsection (2), (7), (8), (9), or (10) of  
12 this section, depending upon the controlled substance involved, for the  
13 first violation and for a second or subsequent violation shall be  
14 punished by the next higher penalty classification than that prescribed  
15 for a first violation of this subsection, but in no event shall such  
16 person be punished by a penalty greater than a Class IB felony.

17 (6) It shall not be a defense to prosecution for violation of  
18 subsection (4) or (5) of this section that the defendant did not know the  
19 age of the person through whom the defendant violated such subsection.

20 (7) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section with  
21 respect to cocaine or any mixture or substance containing a detectable  
22 amount of cocaine in a quantity of:

23 (a) One hundred forty grams or more shall be guilty of a Class IB  
24 felony;

25 (b) At least twenty-eight grams but less than one hundred forty  
26 grams shall be guilty of a Class IC felony; or

27 (c) At least ten grams but less than twenty-eight grams shall be  
28 guilty of a Class ID felony.

29 (8) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section with  
30 respect to base cocaine (crack) or any mixture or substance containing a  
31 detectable amount of base cocaine in a quantity of:

1 (a) One hundred forty grams or more shall be guilty of a Class IB  
2 felony;

3 (b) At least twenty-eight grams but less than one hundred forty  
4 grams shall be guilty of a Class IC felony; or

5 (c) At least ten grams but less than twenty-eight grams shall be  
6 guilty of a Class ID felony.

7 (9) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section with  
8 respect to heroin or any mixture or substance containing a detectable  
9 amount of heroin in a quantity of:

10 (a) One hundred forty grams or more shall be guilty of a Class IB  
11 felony;

12 (b) At least twenty-eight grams but less than one hundred forty  
13 grams shall be guilty of a Class IC felony; or

14 (c) At least ten grams but less than twenty-eight grams shall be  
15 guilty of a Class ID felony.

16 (10) Any person who violates subsection (1) of this section with  
17 respect to amphetamine, its salts, optical isomers, and salts of its  
18 isomers, or with respect to methamphetamine, its salts, optical isomers,  
19 and salts of its isomers, in a quantity of:

20 (a) One hundred forty grams or more shall be guilty of a Class IB  
21 felony;

22 (b) At least twenty-eight grams but less than one hundred forty  
23 grams shall be guilty of a Class IC felony; or

24 (c) At least ten grams but less than twenty-eight grams shall be  
25 guilty of a Class ID felony.

26 (11) Any person knowingly or intentionally possessing marijuana  
27 weighing more than one ounce but not more than one pound shall be guilty  
28 of a Class III misdemeanor.

29 (12) Any person knowingly or intentionally possessing marijuana  
30 weighing more than one pound shall be guilty of a Class IV felony.

31 (13) Except as provided in section 3 of this act, any Any person



1 knowingly or intentionally possessing marijuana weighing one ounce or  
2 less or any substance containing a quantifiable amount of the substances,  
3 chemicals, or compounds described, defined, or delineated in subdivision  
4 (c)(25) of Schedule I of section 28-405 shall:

5 (a) For the first offense, be guilty of an infraction, receive a  
6 citation, be fined three hundred dollars, and be assigned to attend a  
7 course as prescribed in section 29-433 if the judge determines that  
8 attending such course is in the best interest of the individual  
9 defendant;

10 (b) For the second offense, be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor,  
11 receive a citation, and be fined four hundred dollars and may be  
12 imprisoned not to exceed five days; and

13 (c) For the third and all subsequent offenses, be guilty of a Class  
14 IIIA misdemeanor, receive a citation, be fined five hundred dollars, and  
15 be imprisoned not to exceed seven days.

16 (14) Any person convicted of violating this section, if placed on  
17 probation, shall, as a condition of probation, satisfactorily attend and  
18 complete appropriate treatment and counseling on drug abuse provided by a  
19 program authorized under the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act or  
20 other licensed drug treatment facility.

21 (15) Any person convicted of violating this section, if sentenced to  
22 the Department of Correctional Services, shall attend appropriate  
23 treatment and counseling on drug abuse.

24 (16) Any person knowingly or intentionally possessing a firearm  
25 while in violation of subsection (1) of this section shall be punished by  
26 the next higher penalty classification than the penalty prescribed in  
27 subsection (2), (7), (8), (9), or (10) of this section, but in no event  
28 shall such person be punished by a penalty greater than a Class IB  
29 felony.

30 (17) A person knowingly or intentionally in possession of money used  
31 or intended to be used to facilitate a violation of subsection (1) of

1 this section shall be guilty of a Class IV felony.

2 (18) In addition to the existing penalties available for a violation  
3 of subsection (1) of this section, including any criminal attempt or  
4 conspiracy to violate subsection (1) of this section, a sentencing court  
5 may order that any money, securities, negotiable instruments, firearms,  
6 conveyances, or electronic communication devices as defined in section  
7 28-833 or any equipment, components, peripherals, software, hardware, or  
8 accessories related to electronic communication devices be forfeited as a  
9 part of the sentence imposed if it finds by clear and convincing evidence  
10 adduced at a separate hearing in the same prosecution, following  
11 conviction for a violation of subsection (1) of this section, and  
12 conducted pursuant to section 28-1601, that any or all such property was  
13 derived from, used, or intended to be used to facilitate a violation of  
14 subsection (1) of this section.

15 (19) In addition to the penalties provided in this section:

16 (a) If the person convicted or adjudicated of violating this section  
17 is eighteen years of age or younger and has one or more licenses or  
18 permits issued under the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act:

19 (i) For the first offense, the court may, as a part of the judgment  
20 of conviction or adjudication, (A) impound any such licenses or permits  
21 for thirty days and (B) require such person to attend a drug education  
22 class;

23 (ii) For a second offense, the court may, as a part of the judgment  
24 of conviction or adjudication, (A) impound any such licenses or permits  
25 for ninety days and (B) require such person to complete no fewer than  
26 twenty and no more than forty hours of community service and to attend a  
27 drug education class; and

28 (iii) For a third or subsequent offense, the court may, as a part of  
29 the judgment of conviction or adjudication, (A) impound any such licenses  
30 or permits for twelve months and (B) require such person to complete no  
31 fewer than sixty hours of community service, to attend a drug education

1 class, and to submit to a drug assessment by a licensed alcohol and drug  
2 counselor; and

3 (b) If the person convicted or adjudicated of violating this section  
4 is eighteen years of age or younger and does not have a permit or license  
5 issued under the Motor Vehicle Operator's License Act:

6 (i) For the first offense, the court may, as part of the judgment of  
7 conviction or adjudication, (A) prohibit such person from obtaining any  
8 permit or any license pursuant to the act for which such person would  
9 otherwise be eligible until thirty days after the date of such order and  
10 (B) require such person to attend a drug education class;

11 (ii) For a second offense, the court may, as part of the judgment of  
12 conviction or adjudication, (A) prohibit such person from obtaining any  
13 permit or any license pursuant to the act for which such person would  
14 otherwise be eligible until ninety days after the date of such order and  
15 (B) require such person to complete no fewer than twenty hours and no  
16 more than forty hours of community service and to attend a drug education  
17 class; and

18 (iii) For a third or subsequent offense, the court may, as part of  
19 the judgment of conviction or adjudication, (A) prohibit such person from  
20 obtaining any permit or any license pursuant to the act for which such  
21 person would otherwise be eligible until twelve months after the date of  
22 such order and (B) require such person to complete no fewer than sixty  
23 hours of community service, to attend a drug education class, and to  
24 submit to a drug assessment by a licensed alcohol and drug counselor.

25 A copy of an abstract of the court's conviction or adjudication  
26 shall be transmitted to the Director of Motor Vehicles pursuant to  
27 sections 60-497.01 to 60-497.04 if a license or permit is impounded or a  
28 juvenile is prohibited from obtaining a license or permit under this  
29 subsection.

30 Sec. 5. Section 28-441, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
31 2020, is amended to read:

1           28-441 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to use, or to possess  
2 with intent to use, drug paraphernalia to manufacture, inject, ingest,  
3 inhale, or otherwise introduce into the human body a controlled substance  
4 in violation of sections 28-101, 28-431, and 28-439 to 28-444.

5           (2) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of an  
6 infraction.

7           (3) A person shall not be in violation of this section if section  
8 28-472 or section 3 of this act applies.

9           Sec. 6. Section 53-180.05, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,  
10 2020, is amended to read:

11           53-180.05 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section,  
12 any person who violates section 53-180 shall be guilty of a Class I  
13 misdemeanor.

14           (2) Any person who knowingly and intentionally violates section  
15 53-180 shall be guilty of a Class IIIA felony and serve a mandatory  
16 minimum of at least thirty days' imprisonment as part of any sentence he  
17 or she receives if serious bodily injury or death to any person resulted  
18 and was proximately caused by a minor's (a) consumption of the alcoholic  
19 liquor provided or (b) impaired condition which, in whole or in part, can  
20 be attributed to the alcoholic liquor provided.

21           (3) Any person who violates any of the provisions of section  
22 53-180.01 or 53-180.03 shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.

23           (4)(a) Except as otherwise provided in subdivisions (b), (c), and  
24 (d) of this subsection or section 3 of this act, any person older than  
25 eighteen years of age and under the age of twenty-one years violating  
26 section 53-180.02 is guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.

27           (b) Subdivision (a) of this subsection shall not apply if the  
28 person:

29           (i) Made a good faith request for emergency medical assistance in  
30 response to the possible alcohol overdose of himself or herself or  
31 another person as soon as the emergency situation is apparent after such

1 violation of section 53-180.02;

2 (ii) Made the request for medical assistance under subdivision (b)  
3 (i) of this subsection as soon as the emergency situation is apparent  
4 after such violation of section 53-180.02; and

5 (iii) When emergency medical assistance was requested for the  
6 possible alcohol overdose of another person:

7 (A) Remained on the scene until the medical assistance arrived; and

8 (B) Cooperated with medical assistance and law enforcement  
9 personnel.

10 (c) The exception from criminal liability provided in subdivision  
11 (b) of this subsection applies to any person who makes a request for  
12 emergency medical assistance and complies with the requirements of  
13 subdivision (b) of this subsection.

14 (d) Subdivision (a) of this subsection shall not apply to the person  
15 experiencing a possible alcohol overdose if a request for emergency  
16 medical assistance in response to such possible alcohol overdose was made  
17 by another person in compliance with subdivision (b) of this subsection.

18 (e) A person shall not initiate or maintain an action against a  
19 peace officer or the employing state agency or political subdivision  
20 based on the officer's compliance with subdivision (b), (c), or (d) of  
21 this subsection.

22 (5) Any person eighteen years of age or younger violating section  
23 53-180.02 is guilty of a misdemeanor as provided in section 53-181 and  
24 shall be punished as provided in such section.

25 (6) Any person who knowingly manufactures, creates, or alters any  
26 form of identification for the purpose of sale or delivery of such form  
27 of identification to a person under the age of twenty-one years shall be  
28 guilty of a Class I misdemeanor. For purposes of this subsection, form of  
29 identification means any card, paper, or legal document that may be used  
30 to establish the age of the person named thereon for the purpose of  
31 purchasing alcoholic liquor.

1           (7) When a minor is arrested for a violation of sections 53-180 to  
2 53-180.02 or subsection (6) of this section, the law enforcement agency  
3 employing the arresting peace officer shall make a reasonable attempt to  
4 notify such minor's parent or guardian of the arrest.

5           Sec. 7. Original sections 25-21,271, 28-101, 28-416, 28-441, and  
6 53-180.05, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2020, are repealed.